

Deep Russia: **PEACE FOR THREE DAYS**

What Russians discussed on "VKontakte" and on "Telegram" from 31 August to 6 September

Period	31 August - 6 September 2026
Platforms	VKontakte, Telegram (regional communities)



Key Findings

On 5 September 2026, **Witkoff and Kushner held a meeting of more than three hours with Putin in the Kremlin, after which on 6 September they arrived in Kyiv for talks with Zelensky** and the Ukrainian team with the participation of European advisers. During the talks there was only a temporary pause in strikes on Kyiv and Moscow for the duration of the mission; there was discussion of restoring the negotiating format, security guarantees, air defense, energy and winter support for Ukraine. Russia did not publicly agree to a broader ceasefire and repeated its demands about the "realities on the ground" and Ukraine's non-accession to NATO.

The dominant reaction to the talks was skepticism about their effectiveness. People said that "nothing will change", that it is all "empty talk", "blah-blah-blah", and expected the war to continue. They perceived the talks as yet another political performance with no practical result. Even the positive official rhetoric about "substantive", "constructive" and "frank" talks mostly fails to convince the audience.

The discussions showed a pronounced **war fatigue and a demand for its end**. At the same time, this **demand for an end to the war does not mean the audience is ready for just any compromise**. In some regions the position "peace is needed, but without territorial concessions" persists, which duplicates the Kremlin formula.

Another notable line of discussion was **a negative attitude toward the short-term halt to strikes**. Part of the audience perceives the three-day pause as a one-sided concession that will allow Ukraine to catch its breath, rearm or receive new deliveries. In frontline and attacked regions, the population was outraged that the halt to strikes was tied specifically to the safety of the American delegation in the capital, while strikes on other Russian regions continue.

In the Temporarily Occupied certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and Temporarily Occupied Crimea, reactions are noticeably more radical. Here there are more frequent calls to abandon the talks, to continue and intensify strikes on Ukraine, personal insults directed at Zelensky and rejection of any concessions. In Donetsk region this aggressive rhetoric is more pronounced than in Luhansk region. Across the regions overall, **escalatory rhetoric is present**, but does not look strongly dominant.

Over the week, Putin twice denied mobilization. First at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, then at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, where he called it an "information attack" ahead of the State Duma elections. Putin's statements were discussed in more than 76 regions. Commenters expressed distrust of Putin's words because of previous promises that later did not come true. In different regions people said almost the same thing: "they said it won't happen, so it will".

1. PEACE FOR THREE DAYS

The shuttle diplomacy of Witkoff and Kushner

On 4 September [Zelensky confirmed](#) that Witkoff and Kushner would first visit Moscow, and then Kyiv on 6 September. According to him, Ukraine was prepared not to carry out air strikes on Moscow for the duration of the logistics and the talks, expecting mirror-image quiet with regard to Kyiv. On 5 September [Zelensky separately specified](#) Ukraine's readiness to refrain from strikes on cities involved in the negotiation process from Saturday to Monday.

The goal of the mission, according to public reports, was to relaunch the negotiation process. [Axios wrote](#) about the trip as an attempt to advance an American peace initiative, but without a public peace plan.

On 5 September Witkoff and Kushner met with Putin in the Kremlin. [Reuters reported](#) that the talks lasted more than three hours; Ushakov called them useful, constructive and frank. According to [Reuters Connect](#), Witkoff thanked Putin for the "no-shoot policy" regarding Kyiv and Moscow for three days, while Putin stated that he had not agreed to a broader ceasefire with Ukraine.

In substance, Moscow did not budge from its basic conditions. [Ushakov reported that the Americans had laid out "a number of ideas"](#), but Putin emphasized Russian "successes" at the front, the achievement of its goals and the need to eliminate the "root causes of the conflict". [On 8 September Lavrov stated that the US recognizes the "realities on the ground"](#) and rules out Ukraine's membership in NATO; by "realities" he meant not only Temporarily Occupied Crimea and the Temporarily Occupied certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, but also Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

On 6 September the American envoys arrived in Kyiv via Poland. [The Kyiv Independent reported that they were met by](#) Budanov, Umerov, Kyslytsia and Arakhamia. [The Office of the President of Ukraine confirmed several formats](#), namely: a Ukraine-US meeting, a broader meeting of delegations, and the participation of advisers from France, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Zelensky stated that [restoring the negotiation format is important](#), but territorial issues must be resolved at the level of leaders. The Ukrainian side emphasized security guarantees, air defense, energy, winter support and a strong Ukrainian army. Reuters Connect relayed Witkoff's words about the [intention to "reset communication"](#) and bring the parties back to negotiations.

Issue	Position of the Russian Federation	Position of Ukraine	Witkoff–Kushner framework
Territories	"Realities on the ground", including the occupied Ukrainian territories	Non-recognition of annexations; decision at the level of leaders	No public map
Security	Ukraine's renunciation of NATO; restrictions on military support	Strong army, air defense, security guarantees, resources for reconstruction	"Lasting peace", guarantees and an economic package without details
Ceasefire	Pause over the capitals; refusal of a broader truce	Readiness for a mutual air pause	De-escalation as an element of relaunching negotiations
Europe	An attempt to sideline Europe and present it as the "war party"	Mandatory participation of Europe in security guarantees and support for Ukraine	Advisers from France, Britain and Germany involved in Kyiv
Sanctions / economy	Normalization of US–Russia relations, but without concessions in substance	Sanctions as a lever of pressure on Moscow	The sanctions and economic issue is present, but rather vague

Main discussions

The dominant reaction to the talks was skepticism about their effectiveness. People said that "nothing will change", that it is all "empty talk", "blah-blah-blah", and expected the war to continue. They perceived the talks as yet another political performance with no practical result. Even the positive official rhetoric about "substantive", "constructive" and "frank" talks mostly fails to convince the audience.

Rostov

"Why is everything so negative and hopeless? What if it all ends after all... that would be great" — September 5 at 2:07, ♥62

St. Petersburg

↳ *"Pavel, because nobody believes in it anymore" — September 5 at 2:13, ♥104*

↳ *"Pavel, because the greenie might stop, but Puka has no intention of stopping" — September 5 at 4:22, ♥24*

"All in all, this pointless drag won't end this year either" — September 6 at 4:19, ♥16

Novosibirsk Oblast

"And as always, a stupidly useless conversation" — September 6 at 6:54, ♥113

↳ *"Yevgeny, if they had announced the lunch menu, there would have been more information" — September 6 at 6:57, ♥17*

Kemerovo Oblast

"War is war, but the delegation is on schedule 😊" — September 5 at 17:12, ♥20

Omsk

"Every conversation of theirs is 'substantive, constructive and extremely frank'. But what's the use of these conversations? Blah blah blah, they just wag their tongues, and there's still no result 🙄🙄🙄"

— September 6 at 9:17, ♥9

Krasnodar

"They sat, they chatted, they left! Everything staged for the public as usual..." — September 6 at 10:03, ♥11

In parallel, there is a pronounced **war fatigue and a demand for its end**. This was most clearly manifested in Samara and Belgorod Oblasts, where calls to reach an agreement, stop the fighting and stop the loss of life received the most support. In Lipetsk Oblast people also asked why, if the fire can be stopped for three days, it cannot be stopped altogether.

Samara

*"Lord, please just come to an agreement already.
Stop this horror
Completely innocent people are dying" — September 6 at 21:56, ♥84*

Samara

*"There won't be any peace, even if you sign a pile of papers, it won't
fly with the people...someone has made sure these two peoples are
now enemies for years...
Same as the Turks and the Armenians, they don't seem to be at war,
but the people mostly hate each other" — September 5 at 14:44, ♥13*

Perm

*"Negotiations and a truce with terrorists? The veterans of the Great
Patriotic War are turning in their graves. Could anything like this
have happened during the Battle of Stalingrad or the Siege of
Leningrad? Or has the lack of petrol in the country already become
the reason it's time to sit down at the negotiating table?" —
September 5 at 7:45, ♥18
↳ "Natalya, you can take an assault rifle and go to the trenches, but
normal people want peaceful skies overhead" — September 5 at 8:28,
♥52*

At the same time, this **demand for an end to the war does not mean the audience is ready for just any compromise**. In some regions the position "peace is needed, but without territorial concessions" persists. In Rostov Oblast opinions were divided between readiness to stop at the current results and demands to continue fighting for additional territories.

Chelyabinsk Oblast

*"Our guys were laid down in Donbas and now it's hand over Donbas.
They'll get a big fat nothing of Donbas" — September 7 at 8:14, ♥26*

Samara

*"Eh, if only we could take Odesa. And Moldova, and that'd be fine
👉 😊" — September 5 at 5:16, ♥13
↳ "Timur, well go and take it, what's the problem?" — September 5 at
5:47, ♥57
↳ "Timur, we'll definitely take it all in time!" — September 5 at 7:10,
♥4*

Samara

*"Negotiations certainly won't hurt, they know our terms, so now let
them put pressure on Ukraine to accept the terms ;)" — September 6
at 3:40, ♥30
↳ "Pavel, and if things were bad for us, nobody would have flown to
us! And here a whole delegation from Washington is rushing to the
Kremlin of its own accord" — September 6 at 4:00, ♥27*

↳ "Vadim, well apparently they want to end the conflict already, after all the US bet on the wrong horse and just poured money in, now the project has to be shut down" — September 6 at 7:10, ♥24

Omsk

"Here beyond the Urals we have land coming out of our ears and a population of 30 people per square kilometer, and natural resources up to our eyeballs. And they barged into this Donbas, for the life of me I can't understand what they need it for 🙄." — September 7 at 17:26, ♥15

↳ "Oleg, what a shame" — September 8 at 9:24

↳ "Oleg, Crimea, Donbas, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are Russia, these regions must be defended and cleansed of the Ukrainian occupiers." — September 8 at 12:20, ♥3

Another notable line of discussion was **a negative attitude toward the short-term halt to strikes**. Part of the audience perceives the three-day pause as a one-sided concession that will allow Ukraine to catch its breath, rearm or receive new deliveries. Such fears are present in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Kursk, Omsk and Leningrad Oblasts, and Temporarily Occupied Crimea.

Novosibirsk Oblast

"Imagine if in '45 Stalin had been like: halt the offensive, let them catch their breath, restock their ammunition and so on. Don't you dare shoot, some big shot from America is coming to see them. Cool, right? 🙄" — September 5 at 17:37, ♥112

Perm

"Another trick to buy time for a breather" — September 5 at 12:18, ♥14

Kemerovo Oblast

"Yeah, and in that time Kyiv will increase its strikes on us 100 times over...great" — September 5 at 19:28, ♥14

Tyumen

"Excuse me, but are they going to keep bombing the oil refineries with enviable regularity??? And Kyiv can't be touched because Uncle Trump didn't allow it? What nonsense" — September 6 at 11:09, ♥5

In **frontline and attacked regions, the population was outraged that the halt to strikes was tied specifically to the safety of the American delegation in the capital**, while strikes on other Russian regions continue. This was particularly evident in Krasnodar Krai, Belgorod and Rostov Oblasts, and Temporarily Occupied Crimea.

Kursk

"Could they organize the negotiations somewhere in Belgorod, so that for at least 3 days in 5 years we could breathe out and live in peace like before 🙏" — September 5 at 13:14, ♥73

Also, the **public did not forget to call the war a business** on which the authorities and their entourage profit, and both praised and mocked Putin, criticized his rhetoric and doubted the independence of the Russian authorities. Some users perceived the arrival of the American delegation as a demonstration of Moscow's dependence on the US.

Novosibirsk Oblast

"Now even the US comes bowing to Russia. Well done Putin, he has made the country a world leader. PS The enemies of Russia will be finished off. Victory is already with Russia. For our Victory!" — September 6 at 11:39, ♥11

Tatarstan

"To the last Russian, to the last ruble, grandpa is old, he doesn't care." — September 6 at 12:35, ♥12

Krasnodar

"He'll say we've been cheated again, I'm not surprised at all. Not learning from their mistakes, I see)))" — September 5 at 19:15, ♥8

Rostov

"Hahahahahahaahahahha... There will be no peace while Putin is in power, has somebody still not understood that?)" — September 6 at 22:21, ♥11

Lipetsk

"This isn't a war but a circus where one clown is a dumbfuck and the other is senile + alcoholism" — September 5 at 21:12, ♥22

In the Temporarily Occupied certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and Temporarily Occupied Crimea, reactions are noticeably more radical.

Here there are more frequent calls to abandon the talks, to continue and intensify strikes on Ukraine, personal insults directed at Zelensky and rejection of any concessions. In Donetsk region this aggressive rhetoric is more pronounced than in Luhansk region.

Temporarily Occupied Donetsk region

"Drive the pindoses out of here with pissy rags ! 😡" — September 5 at 20:55, ♥71

"Specially to give a breather to the green creature and the ginger rooster" — September 5 at 20:56, ♥52

"Waiting for the next dirty trick, as always after negotiations with the pindoses 🤮" — September 5 at 21:00, ♥47

"Is that what they flew in for? (And from Poland they're ferrying the arsenal by every route - against Russians at the front and civilians in the rear?)" — September 5 at 20:55, ♥28

Across the regions overall, **escalatory rhetoric is present**, but does not look strongly dominant. In Samara Oblast, calls to use the "Oreshnik" or to "wipe Ukraine off the map" received less support than demands to end the war. In Leningrad Oblast the activity of pro-government commenters was noticeable, but at the same time there was a significant number of replies mocking these claims and pointing out the inconsistency of official propaganda.

Samara

"Then let's hit London, Berlin and Paris, no point sitting around without work! especially since there are factories there that supply weapons" — September 5 at 5:13, ♥33

Volgograd

*"Damn! What a pity these negotiations have started!
I thought they would go all the way to complete Victory...*

The question is;

*- Why and for what did the men of my family, and not only mine,
die!?*

Just for it all to end like this...

Well, well" — September 6 at 4:38

↳ *"Yulia, you're right, it's very sad, the criminal regime in Kyiv hasn't gone anywhere, it will flourish, pity for the guys who are gone." —*

September 6 at 14:52

↳ *"Yulia, did they go for the money?" — September 8 at 0:27*

Lipetsk

"So what are we fighting for then, where is the denazification and demilitarization? What are you doing there, selling out us and our efforts, our fallen comrades....?"

Are we going to defeat fascism, or have we already started negotiating with the fascists?" — September 5 at 17:17, ♥18

2. The week in Russian regional "VKontakte" and "Telegram"

Top discussions on Telegram and VKontakte

1. *Putin's statements about mobilization "nonsense"*

Over the week, Putin twice denied mobilization. First at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, then at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, where he called it an "information attack" ahead of the State Duma elections. Putin's statements were discussed in more than 76 regions.

Commenters expressed distrust of Putin's words because of previous promises that later did not come true. Most often they recall the 2018 pension reform and the denial that mobilization was possible shortly before it was announced in 2022. In different regions people said almost the same thing: "they said it won't happen, so it will". Some users point out that certain media removed the word "today" from Putin's quote, and that the 2022 decree on partial mobilization formally remains in force to this day. Some said that Russia physically does not need a new mobilization, since the Russian army already significantly outnumbers the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and 200–400 thousand volunteers are recruited every year. However, trust in Putin's statements remains the rarest position in the discussions.

Also among the key points of Putin's speech at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok were the reduction of inflation to 6.3% and a "non-critical" budget deficit. The public generally described the whole forum as "window dressing" or "blah-blah-blah". However, a significant part of the audience assessed the development of the Far East positively and trusted the statements about economic stability. Such support was especially noticeable on VK, where it occurred more often than on Telegram.

Samara

"As long as I am president, there will be no raising of the retirement age," it said" — September 3 at 12:31, ♥97

In Vladivostok itself, local residents complained about road closures, parking, prices and inconveniences caused by the forum, asking what practical benefit the event brings to the city.

2. *Yet another massive drone attack*

This week air attacks again became one of the most widespread topics in regional public groups. On Telegram 957 posts were recorded in 57 regions, on VK — 454 posts in 51 regions. In total the topic gathered more than 3.8 thousand comments.

The most noticeable consequences were in Rostov and Sverdlovsk Oblasts. In Moscow more than 114 drones were reported shot down in a day, which delayed more than 100 flights. Commenters most often doubted the official figures for downed drones, complained about late warnings and accused officials of a showy reaction instead of real protection. Problems with shelters and sirens resonate especially acutely with the public, as it was precisely such comments that collected the most reactions. Gratitude to air defense accounted for about 13% of substantive comments. Roughly the same share went to sympathy for the victims and thanks to rescuers. Comparisons of the regions with Moscow and the complaint that the capital is better protected were very rare.

Moscow

"Seriously, where is he looking, the Moscow region is full of drones! Elektrostal, Bunkovo, will this ever end!!!" — September 3 at 13:09, ♥32

Samara

"So where were these Unmanned Aerial Vehicles actually flying and what did they hit???
It's clear that their debris damaged some residential buildings!!
Or is this a 'great military secret' that the ordinary man in the street
and the 'electorate' don't need to know???
It's funny having to look for this information on Ukrainian resources,
and sometimes with video and photo 'reports'!!((" — September 1 at
10:30, ♥62
"Where are the people here, anyway....
Factories get blown up with no casualties, residential buildings get
blown up with no casualties" — September 1 at 13:01, ♥39

3. The second wave of the fuel crisis for the fourth week in a row

The fuel crisis, which had remained at a high level in previous weeks, got a new continuation this time. From 1 September to 30 June 2027, filling stations have been temporarily allowed to sell petrol and diesel of classes from Euro-2 to Euro-5 instead of the previous Euro-5-only requirement. Over the past week the fuel crisis was discussed in 75 regions of the Russian Federation.

Most commenters suspect that the shortage is being created or sustained artificially. They talk about corruption, collusion, deliberate restriction of supplies, and linked a possible improvement of the situation to the approaching elections on 18–20 September. Comments often mention physical exhaustion from the queues. At the same time, part of the audience believes the problem is exaggerated and blames the drivers themselves, who buy up petrol in reserve and create additional panic buying.

This week the initiative on priority service for participants of the "Special Military Operation" was actively discussed. For the most part, people expressed dissatisfaction with such measures.

Kursk

"Oh why not, just introduce castes already, like our brothers from India" — September 5 at 22:58, ♥62

Perm

"Yeah, and the rest who slave away for the good of the Special Military Operation will be standing in queues. I think it's time to strip such deputies of their mandate, with their oh-so-brilliant ideas." — September 6 at 16:05, ♥460

Tolyatti

"What kind of division of people is this. Instead of supplying the country with petrol in full, they'd rather divide people. So that everyone at the filling stations fights to the death." — September 6 at 13:34, ♥220

"And why were the veterans of Afghanistan or the Chechen war left out?" — September 6 at 13:35, ♥194

"And those who took part in the Chechen war, how are they worse, why should they stand in the queue like everyone else? 🤔" — September 6 at 13:33, ♥98

Perm

"As a Special Military Operation participant and a disabled person, I declare: this should not be done. You come to the clinic here and they look at you like an enemy of the people. It feels like they sympathize more with the khokhols than with their own soldiers. Our society is not ready to treat veterans with respect." — September 6 at 16:53, ♥95

"And how are they better than us, the non-participants of the Special Military Operation? Women were always let go first, especially with children. And now what.... Everything's been turned upside down. People fought in Chechnya, in Afghanistan, etc. too, but there are no privileges for them...." — September 6 at 18:01, ♥58

Commenters also compare the situation in their regions with Moscow, where fuel problems are perceived as less noticeable.

After petrol of lower environmental classes was allowed on sale, concerns appeared about fuel quality. People fear that such fuel may damage car engines.

Overall, for a significant part of the audience the fuel crisis has turned into a protracted problem, and the new relaxation of fuel quality requirements has only deepened distrust that the situation is really stabilizing.

Perm

"They voted for the amendments, now they spend the night at the filling station 🚰" — September 5 at 17:37, ♥82

"And this app of yours, 'Where's the petrol', is the same kind of fake as what you're writing here, this app is misleading, all the information in it does not correspond to reality" — September 5 at 18:08, ♥28

Samara

"What kind of division of people is this. So they are people, and the others are just some appendage to them. Instead of supplying the country with petrol in full, they'd rather divide people." — September 6 at 13:30, ♥281

"I'm not against it, they're all heroes. But an excess of privileges for Special Military Operation participants will lead to conflicts for a very long time!!! Some people don't understand this and want to write their name in, like, I passed a law on some privilege for Special Military Operation soldiers, so that they'll remember him. And the working man who worked for the front, or was somehow involved, or simply worked, will keep sitting in the queue letting pensioners go ahead..." — September 6 at 13:49, ♥163

"Instead of solving this problem with the 'queues' and supplying the country with fuel, they come up with some idiotic laws" — September 6 at 13:41, ♥120

4. The 22nd anniversary of the Beslan terrorist attack

On 1 September, Knowledge Day, regional public groups widely remembered the 22nd anniversary of the seizure of School No. 1 in Beslan. In the comments people mainly remembered the dead, wrote words of condolence, shared their own memories of September 2004, and thanked the fighters of "Alfa" and "Vympel". For many, Beslan still remains a tragedy that is well remembered.

Along with the memory of the victims, old questions to the authorities were raised again. Some commenters do not trust the official version of events, recall the contradictions surrounding the storming and speak of Beslan as one of the tragedies for which society never received clear answers. Another notable reaction is connected with the feeling that Beslan is gradually being talked about less. People pointed out that the anniversary is not commemorated everywhere in the media and schools, and some memorial decisions appeared only many years later. Because of this, the comments also voice resentment that the memory of the tragedy has to be constantly defended.

Separately, people pointed to the contradiction between the memory of the terrorist attacks of the early 2000s and Moscow's current policy toward the Taliban. For part of the audience this looks particularly cynical, since in their memory the Taliban is still associated with support for terrorist groups of that period.

5. A series of knife attacks and bomb threats at schools at the start of the school year

The start of the school year in several regions of Russia was accompanied by a series of alarming incidents in schools. On 1 September in Kansk, a seventh-grade girl used pepper spray and attacked a physics teacher with a knife. In the same days, similar incidents occurred in Bashkortostan, Moscow and Arkhangelsk. At the same time, schools in Ivanovo Oblast and St. Petersburg received mass bomb threats.

The comments most strongly conveyed anxiety about what is happening with children and schools. People wrote about aggression, problems with upbringing, impunity and a feeling that violence among teenagers is becoming increasingly normal. At the same time, only isolated commenters drew a connection with the war or state propaganda of violence.

Chelyabinsk

"This is what happens when you promote violence everywhere in the country" — 1 hour ago, ♥6

Many users demanded a tougher response. There were proposals to lower the age of criminal responsibility, to work more seriously with school psychologists and to hold parents accountable for their children's behavior.

A separate discussion arose around the reports of bomb threats. Part of the audience already treats such alarms with distrust and perceives them as yet another wave of fake reports rather than a real threat.

At the same time, not everyone reduced the problem only to the aggression of the attackers themselves. The comments often mentioned bullying, conflicts with classmates and a difficult atmosphere in schools. The public discussed what might have preceded the attack and why the situation escalated to violence. Less often there were attempts to explain such cases by the attackers' origin or mental disorders. Such versions were noticeable, but did not define the general discussion.

The second housing and communal services tariff increase of the year immediately after the elections

The Federal Antimonopoly Service announced a new increase in housing and communal services tariffs from 1 October. Depending on the region, bills may rise by 8–22%. The largest rise is expected in Stavropol Krai and Dagestan, the smallest in Khakassia and Chukotka. This will be the second increase of the year, after the January tariff increase of 1.7%. The reaction is almost everywhere the same, and it is outrage. The very timing of the increase struck a particular nerve. In the comments it is linked to the elections on 18–20 September, and people suppose that the unpopular decision was simply held back until voting was over.

No less irritation is caused by the question of what exactly people will be paying more for. Commenters write that tariffs rise regularly, but in everyday life they see no corresponding

improvement. The pipes remain old, accidents don't go away, the quality of services doesn't change, but the amounts on the bills get bigger. They also write that salaries and pensions are not growing at such a pace, so another increase in utility bills will simply take an even larger share of their income.

Methodology

What this project is. Systematic monitoring of sentiment in Russian regions — with a focus on critical and negative posts as an indicator of what irritates, frightens or outrages people. The conclusions rest on two parallel sources from monitoring regional VKontakte groups and Telegram.

VKontakte and Telegram. Automated data collection in regional Russian communities on VKontakte (536 groups) and Telegram (428 channels) — regional news channels, local public groups, oblast media, local "chat bots" with audiences ranging from several thousand to hundreds of thousands of subscribers. Coverage — all Russian regions and the occupied territories of Ukraine. Observations by regional analysts were additionally used.

Quotes in the report text are given verbatim.